



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

**For Immediate Release**

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BHDDH Media Relations

**Holiday Message of Hope for Veterans and Others Recovering from Substance Use Disorders to be Unveiled at “Cookies with Santa” Event**  
**Director Stenning of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals will deliver the Message at the Anchor Recovery Community Center.**

Cranston, RI, December, 2011 – Craig Stenning, Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) will deliver a Holiday Message of Hope at the “Cookies with Santa” celebration to be held at the Anchor Recovery Community Center, 249 Main Street, Pawtucket on Saturday, December 17 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Director Stenning will speak at 1:30 p.m.

“Events such as these allow us to celebrate the holidays and continue to recognize the efforts of veterans and others in recovery along with their families”, says Director Stenning. “It is important to let them know that, with hope, faith, as well as the support and love of family and agency staff, recovery is probable, not just possible.”

Jim Gillen, Director of the Anchor Recovery Community Center says: “Holidays can be stressful, so we believe in the importance of celebrating in a way that not only the family, but the whole community can enjoy”.

The event, which includes refreshments, will feature a Bwana Iguana Reptile Show. Children will also have the opportunity to visit with Santa.

**About the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals**

BHDDH is committed to assuring access to quality services and support for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues and chronic, long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. In addition to planning for the development of new services and prevention activities, the department’s mission includes addressing the stigma attached to these disabilities.

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**About the Anchor Recovery Community Center**

The Anchor Recovery Community Center is a safe, supportive environment for people in all stages of recovery. At Anchor, people who have changed their lives for the better help others find a new way of living through meaningful relationships, activities and a sense of community. In addition working with people to maintain their recovery, Anchor helps people build a new life.

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